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tions with the American Bar Association concerning the matter of co-operation in its publication. Another motion empowered the committee to rearrange the schedule of subscription prices on a service basis in order to meet or reduce the existing deficit.

A committee was appointed to confer with a similar committee from the National Association of State Libraries on the question of closer co-operation between the two associations.

Four amendments to the constitution were adopted.

The annual dues of the association were increased from two to three dollars.

A. J. Small, Chairman of the Committee on Checklist of Bar Association Reports, submitted a tentative compilation of such works. Frank E. Chipman reported that when labor conditions were more settled his company would be willing to undertake the publication of the *Checklist*. The question of arranging for the printing of the *Checklist* was left to the Executive Committee with power to act.

The following resolutions were presented and adopted unanimously: (1) Resolutions to send message of greeting to Mr. John Himes Arnold, who for forty-one years was law librarian of the Harvard Law School Library; (2) Resolutions of regret at the resignation of Mr. Elias J. Lien, formerly State Librarian of Minnesota; and

(3) Resolution concerning the death of Mr. Columbus Will Shaffer, formerly State Law Librarian of Washington.

A joint resolution was adopted endorsing the early publication of a *Supplement and index to the checklist of United States public documents*.

The report of the Joint Committee upon the National Information Service was accepted, and the committee continued.

Officers of the Association were elected as follows: President, Gilson G. Glasier, Librarian, Wisconsin State Library, Madison, Wisconsin; First Vice-President, Andrew H. Mettee, Library Company of the Baltimore Bar, Baltimore, Maryland; Second Vice-President, Mrs. Maud B. Cobb, State Librarian, Atlanta, Georgia; Secretary, Mary S. Foote, Librarian, New Haven County Bar Library, New Haven, Connecticut; Treasurer, Anna M. Ryan, Buffalo Law Library, Buffalo, New York; Executive Committee, the above officers and Frederick C. Hicks, Librarian, Columbia University Law Library, New York City; Luther E. Hewitt, Librarian, Law Association of Philadelphia, Philadelphia, Pennsylvania; Howard L. Stebbins, Librarian, Social Law Library, Boston, Massachusetts.

MARY S. FOOTE,  
Secretary pro-tem.

## LEAGUE OF LIBRARY COMMISSIONS

A meeting of the League of Library Commissions was held in Swampscott, in connection with the A. L. A. The first session convened June 22 with the President, W. R. Watson, in the chair. As the annual meeting of the League occurs at the time of the mid-winter meetings, the time was devoted to papers and discussions.

The first paper was on THE RELATIONSHIP BETWEEN THE CENTRAL LIBRARY AND BRANCH LIBRARIES OF A COUNTY SYSTEM, by Sabra L. Nason, Librarian of the Umatilla County Library, Pendleton, Oregon. As

Miss Nason was unable to be present the paper was read by W. J. Hamilton.

To summarize—Miss Nason says:

It is taken for granted at the outset that the county unit of library administration upholds our slogan of "The best reading for the greatest number at the least cost" as has no other library system so far inaugurated.

It makes possible the pooling of all the books of neighboring towns into an organized collection which can give fresh material to each of the co-operating towns with only the cost of transportation to be considered.

It furnishes the services of a trained

library staff to towns so small that such benefits would otherwise be out of question.

Book funds used advisedly keep the ever changing collections fresh with first class new books.

But best of all it reaches out to the farm homes and to thousands who had previously been without the inspiration of a near-by library.

Umatilla County Library was established in 1914 and ten branches were in working order before the year was over. From the very first year these outside districts have circulated more books than has the county seat, although Pendleton population is larger than all the branch towns together and her readers are close to the central supply of books. From an 18,000 volume circulation in Pendleton the year before the county system started, it has grown to 68,000 in 1920, 40,000 of which is from the branches and rural schools. The county population by 1920 census is 25,898, of which Pendleton numbers 7,387 and the eleven smaller cities total 6,306.

In the Umatilla County Library system only one county-city contract has so far been necessary and that is between the county and the city of Pendleton in which the central library is located. In this case, the first property to be used in common was the Pendleton library of nearly 5,000 volumes. The county soon after erected a central building and also purchased many books all to be used by city and county people alike. Hence a joint contract. The County Library Board of five members, three of whom are Pendleton residents, directs the general policies and also local matters at the central library.

No other city contracts have so far been necessary as our smaller towns without libraries to start with had no property to place in the common lot. However, a similar contract might suffice in case separate city libraries changed into branches. Our form of contract was originally drawn up between the County Library Board and the Commercial Association of Pendleton which generously offered their Sturgis Fund Library and the future annual purchases from this substantial fund to be administered by the County Library and used freely throughout the county.

This contract contains a clause which requires a minimum *book fund* of \$2,000 annually from the county tax levy, for the Commercial Association did not intend to risk having some future county commission economize on the library levy with the excuse that the Sturgis book fund would have to be sufficient. So our book fund is not flexible and cannot be dipped

into to meet other seemingly important maintenance expenses. They also safeguarded the standards of library service in the library fortunate enough to receive their splendid gift, by requiring a central library staff of at least three trained and experienced librarians.

Later the Pendleton City Council endorsed the same feature in their contract which therefore serves equally well between two publicly supported libraries and between a public and a privately owned library which is given over to public use.

In giving as much authority as possible to local boards while still maintaining standards and uniform efficiency throughout the branches we have drawn up branch standardization requirements which, so far as we know, are the first of their kind and open to such improvement as experiment here and elsewhere may indicate. They were published in full in the January, 1921 number of *Public Libraries*.

Miss Nason's paper is printed in full in the October 1921 *Illinois Libraries*.

The second paper was A CHAPTER IN THE HISTORY OF A SMALL CITY LIBRARY by Mrs. Elizabeth W. Blackall, Librarian of the Huntington Memorial Library, Oneonta, New York. Mrs. Blackall gave a very interesting account of her work in her own library and said in part:

There is no need for detailing the many usual ways in which we all try to secure the growth of our libraries—such as the story hour, the good book week, the publicity work both without and within its walls, including the use of slides at the movies.

But as each library has its own personality—the elusive something that makes the work constantly a thrilling adventure—and seems to a librarian the significant factor in that particular library's success; perhaps you won't mind my recapitulating the main formulas of aim and program, and adding briefly the few concrete lesser rules for our library behavior.

(1) Make the library of use and a necessity to the entire community—its individuals, its schools, and all its organizations for civic and social work, and to its industrial organizations so far as its resources can be stretched to meet their needs.

(2) Gradually work toward a well-organized and standardized library technic. This is ultimately a necessity. It is second in importance and time only to the preceding rule.

(3) Do not dissipate the energies that should go into library service by assuming

outside work, however laudable that work.

(4) Make the personal service, the instant, cheerful attention at the desk, the real interest and care in reference help, the *main idea* in daily work.

(5) Active membership of the librarian in the communities clubs and library-and-book-talks before various groups are a great help if not an essential in getting the town and its library acquainted.

(6) Keep a homey atmosphere in the library, make it a place where people like to come for quiet reading as well as for study; and make the only basis for the quietness courteous regard for others' pleasure and rights—no discipline except the discipline of good manners.

(7) Cheerful, neat, well-ordered rooms, flowers, happy, unhurried service, are the daily watchwords,

Of course these rules of action mean that the librarian will if necessity arises, build a furnace fire, sweep a floor, or introduce a president of the United States if he comes that way.

Mrs. Blackall's paper was printed in *New York Libraries*, August, 1921, pp. 236-240.

Fannie C. Rawson, Chairman of Publications Committee, gave her report recommending certain changes in the uniform blank for traveling library statistics. The recommendations were accepted and the blanks ordered printed.

Representatives from the different library commissions were called upon to report on library legislation. Most of the commissions reported substantial increases in their own appropriations. The Governors of New Jersey and Oklahoma even added to the amount asked for, telling the Commissions they were too modest in their requests. New Jersey has an annual appropriation of \$45,500 and Oklahoma a biennial appropriation of \$41,000.

Generally these appropriations are made in a lump sum. Mrs. Earl pointed out that appropriations so allowed went much farther than when made on the budget plan.

The consolidation of the library commission with some other state department was brought up in several states. In Illinois the Commission was consolidated with the State Library and three divisions made mandatory, the state library division, the library extension division, and the archives

division. In Maine the library commission was united with the state library and is called the Bureau of Library Extension. In Tennessee the Director of County Library Extension is under the supervision of the State Library. The question of consolidating the commission with several other state departments of Oklahoma was discussed but no law was passed. As a matter of economy, the Michigan legislature eliminated the board of library commissions and the work formerly done by that commission combined with the activities of the state library, but no adequate appropriation for the work was made.

New York and Wisconsin both passed laws for certification of librarians. These laws have been printed in the bulletins of these states and other publications.

County library laws were passed by Kansas, Missouri, New York and South Dakota. Indiana and Wisconsin amended their county library laws. An old county library law in Oklahoma was made feasible by a recent supreme court decision.

Illinois and New Jersey reported an increase in the maximum tax levy rates allowed public libraries. Illinois' increase was from one and a third to one and eight tenths mills; New Jersey's from one-half to one mill.

Many other states reported minor changes in library laws.

The rest of the session was devoted to a round table on institution libraries: Can the State Library Commission Aid Their Development?

The President asked Caroline Webster, Director of Hospital Service, American Library Association, to conduct this round table.

Mrs. Rice was the first speaker and talked on the value of interesting the public in institutional legislation and requirements.

Mrs. Thayer's topic was the LIBRARY IN THE GENERAL HOSPITAL. She said that the library is a therapeutic essential to every hospital. People are not mentally sick through and through but are only sick in spots. The ill must have spiritual help

and this is gained fastest through books. The patients must not be separated from the usual things of life in a hospital but the surroundings should be made up of all the happy and beautiful things with which they are usually familiar. The use made of books is not for their educational value but therapeutic value.

Anna C. Jammé's paper on DEVELOPMENT OF LIBRARIES IN SCHOOLS OF NURSING THROUGH EXISTING STATE AND COUNTY AGENCIES was read by Jean E. Graffen, Chief of the Periodical Department, Public Library, Philadelphia.

Kathleen Jones, formerly librarian of the McLean Hospital, Waverly, Massachusetts, now General Secretary of the Massachusetts Commission, spoke on the Library Commission's responsibility to state and county hospitals. She said the library com-

mission would have to get behind the hospital work. One way is to support legislation for this work. Most hospitals have books but the books are not selected with care. Friendly relations must be secured with the state hospital officials. Prisoners should be allowed to come to the library to select their books and to use it as a reading room.

The session then adjourned.

A second session was held as a joint meeting with the American Library association, Saturday morning June 25. (See p. 161.)

The officers for 1921 are: President, Wm. R. Watson; first vice-president, Wm. J. Hamilton; second vice-president, Mary B. Palmer; secretary and treasurer, Anna May Price.

ANNA MAY PRICE,  
Secretary.

## NATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF STATE LIBRARIES

The 24th Annual Meeting of the National Association of State Libraries was held at Swampscott, Massachusetts, June 21-24, 1921.

### First Session

The first session was called to order by the president, Edward H. Redstone, librarian, Massachusetts State Library, who gave an address of welcome.

#### ADDRESS OF WELCOME

It is my pleasant duty to welcome you to Swampscott, Massachusetts. In the past an address of welcome has customarily been made by some one outside of the association, who has devoted his or her energies to extolling the whole average of brains and beauty extended by this body. I confess to a strong personal conviction on this subject but I feel that it would hardly become a member to enlarge upon it.

In fact, though our feelings of welcome are warm, my words must be few for I am unwilling to detain you from the program that is to follow. I wish simply to express the great and sincere pleasure it

gives to us of Massachusetts to welcome you to our state.

The pride of Bostonians in their native city has almost become proverbial; you have doubtless heard countless witticisms on the subject perpetrated at our expense. Imagine for yourselves then, the delight we feel in initiating our best friends from every corner of the land into this paradise, and if you find in any respect that it falls below our heavenly ideal, please be magnanimous, I beg you, conceal the fact as best you can and spare our images.

Parkman, writing of a period a century and a half ago, in referring to our cold and disagreeable temperament, says "Then as now, New England was best known to her neighbors by her worst side." May this be a ray of comfort for you, therefore, in the hope that on closer acquaintance you may find us not quite as bad as we seem. The last conference in this vicinity was at Magnolia, a few miles from here, in 1902. Since that time the association has met in various parts of the country, where it has enjoyed a generous and hearty welcome, but nowhere, I assure you, and I speak